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this doctrine to consist in the assertions, that (1) no palæontologist has shown the transition of one species into another; and (2) that the geological record should furnish the history of such changes had they taken place. To this the author of the paper replies (1) that many intermediate forms connecting widely separated living types have been discovered by palæontologists. (2) That the geological record is too imperfect to furnish all the transitions that the theory of derivation requires. (3) That observation of actual transition is not necessary in evidence, since there is reason to believe that transformations have proceeded more rapidly under some circumstances than others, and through changes transpiring during embryonic life. In support of the latter hypothesis, he cites the writings of Dall (1877) and Selys Longchamps (1879) on *Saltatory Evolution*.

— An interesting discovery has been made at Edge Lane quarry, Oldham, England. The quarrymen, in the course of their excavations, have come upon what has been described as a fossil forest. The trees number about twelve, and some of them are two feet in diameter. They are in good preservation. The roots can be seen interlacing the rock, and the fronds of the ferns are to be found imprinted on every piece of stone. The discovery has excited much interest in geological circles round Manchester, and the “forest” has been visited by a large number of persons. The trees belong to the middle coal measure period, although it has been regarded as somewhat remarkable that no coal has been discovered near them. The coal is found about two hundred and fifty yards beneath. Prof. Boyd-Dawkins, of Owens College, has visited the quarry.—*London Times*.

— Dr. Asa Gray left London for Paris last month, and is probably now botanizing in Spain.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, Oct. 6.—Mr. S. H. Scudder gave an account of the geology and palæontology of the Lake basin of Florissant, Colorado, famous for its insect and plant remains.

Oct. 20.—Mr. J. A. Allen spoke of the distribution of the birds of the West Indies, with special reference to those of the Caribbee islands. The President showed specimens of the carboniferous centipede, *Euphoberia*, some of gigantic size, and discussed their relationship to living and extinct types. Dr. W. F. Whitney described the structure of the so-called “sucking stomach” of Butterflies.

Nov. 3.—Prof. E. S. Morse spoke on the Ainos of Yesso, showing some of their implements, etc.; Mr. Scudder exhibited an in-

teresting carboniferous fossil from Illinois; Mr. Hyatt described the molting of the lobster; while Mr. Putnam showed a remarkable piece of pottery from an Arkansas mound, and referred to the supposed resemblances between the pottery from these mounds and from Peru.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Oct. 11.—Mr. A. A. Julien gave the results of recent observations on mountain-sculpture in the Catskills.

Oct. 18.—Prof. Newberry described the great deposits of crystalline iron ore in Southern Utah; and Prof. Martin exhibited and read notes upon specimens of the fossil leaves contained in the tufa of Brazil.

Oct. 25.—Prof. T. Egleston read a paper on American processes for the manufacture of copper.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, Boston, Oct. 13.—Prof. G. Lanza gave an account of a sojourn in Andover, Maine. Mrs. L. D. Pychowska described Bald hill, Campton, N. H. Carter dome, Huntington ravine and the Montalban ridge were described by Mr. W. H. Pickering; and Prof. C. E. Fay remarked upon a peculiar feature of Mt. Lincoln, Franconia mountains, N. H.

MIDDLESEX SCIENTIFIC FIELD CLUB, Oct. 13.—The Club held its first regular meeting since its adjournment for the summer months. L. L. Dame read a paper on the "Preservation of our Native Plants." The reading was followed by discussions.

Nov. 3.—The President, Henry L. Moody, read a paper on "Mimicry of Insects." The Club adopted measures looking to the establishment of a museum to illustrate the Natural History of Middlesex county.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, Philadelphia, March 19.—A communication was received, entitled "Nodal estimate of the Velocity of Light, by P. E. Chase." Mr. Phillips read a paper describing two very old and curious maps of North and South America. Dr. Greené communicated a paper "On the action of hydrochloric acid and of chlorine on acetobenzoic anhydride."

April 2.—A paper was read, entitled "On the Origin of Planets," by Daniel Kirkwood.

April 16.—Mr. Hall described casts from the State Geological Museum.

May 7.—Mr. Robinson read a biographical memoir of the late M. Michel Chevalier. A paper entitled "Second Contribution to the History of the *Vertebrata* of the Permian formation of Texas, by E. D. Cope," was presented.

May 21.—Mr. Phillips presented a paper on "Some recent discoveries of Stone Implements in Africa and Asia." Prof. Cope remarked on the Lower Tertiary formations.

June 18.—Mr. Blodgett made some observations on "Certain features of industrial migrations."

July 16.—Prof. Cope presented a paper "On the Genera of the *Creodonta*."

Aug. 20.—Two papers were presented, entitled "Notes respecting a re-eroded channel-way" and "Notes on some features of the Geology of Scott and Wise counties, Va.," by J. J. Stevenson.

Sept. 17.—Mr. H. G. Jones presented a paper entitled "Notes on the Cumberland or Potomac Coal basin." Mr. Lesley proposed another Egyptian etymology in Greek, viz, the name of the Eleusinian Sun God, *Iaxxos* from *azu* in the Sphinx name of the Nilotic morning sun god Horus:—Hor-m-azu, The sun on the horizon.

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## SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MICROSCOPICAL SCIENCE—October. Larval Forms: their nature, origin and affinities, by F. M. Balfour. (An attempt to study the relations of the larvæ of Echinoderms, mollusks and worms, and to determine the characters of the common prototype, *Pilidium* coming nearest to this form in the course of its conversion into a bilateral form; the Trochosphere being a completely differentiated bilateral form in which an anus has become developed. The bilateral symmetry of the larva of Echinoderms is supposed to be secondary, like that of many Cœlenterate larvæ.) The Eye of Pecten, by S. J. Hickson. (Its anatomy is exceedingly complicated, and exhibits all the most important structural elements of the eyes of the higher Vertebrata, but the mode of formation of the molluscan eye is essentially different from that of the Vertebrata, and the resemblance in the adult is merely accidental, not homological. The Pecten is probably capable of appreciating very diffused light, for the close approximation of the lens to the retina makes it exceedingly improbable that any image is formed upon the latter; so that its visual power would not enable it to avoid its enemies.) On the terminations of nerves in the epidermis, by L. Ranvier. On the termination of the nerves in the mammalian cornea, by E. Klein.

ANNALES DES SCIENCES NATURELLES, August. On the Metamorphoses of Bryozoa, by J. Barrois. Researches in the fauna of southern regions, by A. Milne-Edwards (based on the geographical distribution of the penguins, with a map and plate).

ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR WISSENSCHAFTLICHE ZOOLOGIE—Sept. 10. The anatomy of *Distomum hepaticum*, by F. Sommer (richly illustrated). Description of the nervous system of *Oryctes nasicornis* in the larva, pupa and beetle stages, by H. Michels (elsewhere noticed).